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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR  
SUBJECT Geographic Mapping Activities

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 20 July 1954

NO. OF PAGES 7

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

25X1

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Comment. Throughout this report, for Main Administration or  
Main Directorate read Chief Directorate.

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	#x	ARMY	#x	NAVY	#x	AIR	#x	FBI	#	AEC							
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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**DATE DISTR.** 10 June 1954**NO. OF PAGES** 6**REFERENCES:** 25X1

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District HQ's, detachments, battalions, and companies of Border Guard Troops [redacted] had no surveying and mapping units. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Main Administration of Border Guard Troops received maps from the General Staff of the Armed Forces. These maps were handled on district and detachment level by the Border Security Department [redacted] Instruction on maps to EM was given by the Combat Readiness Department [redacted] On company level, the CO or his deputy handled the maps and gave instructions to EM on maps.

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[redacted] no units of Border Guard Troops were ever subordinate to the General Staff of Armed Forces.

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**SECRET**

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET  
- 2 -

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the proper name was either "Topograficheskoye Upravleniye" (Topographic Administration) or "Topograficheskii Otdel pri General'nom Shtabe Sovetskoy Armii". (Topographic Section of the General Staff of the Soviet Army.)

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orders 001 and 003, issued before World War II (exact date unknown), by the Main Administration of Border Guard Troops.

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Order 001 was for Company CO's and ordered them to make detailed sketches of their border territory. These sketches were to be based on General Staff maps of 1:25,000 scale and were to be on a scale of 1:5,000 if possible, or 1:10,000. All terrain features, such as ponds, oases, clearings, gullies, ravines, streams, woods, etc., and all man-made obstacles and installations, such as plowed strips, barbed wire fences, electric detection devices, border kolkhozy, bridges, stakes, railroads, company areas, deployment trenches, etc., had to be entered on the maps. The company CO and his deputies drew this map, usually in only one copy. Only on express demands of the battalion CO was a second copy made. The company CO or his deputy oriented the EM on the location of all terrain features, and assigned them arbitrary names (for instance, Cave Ivan, Gully Fox, Clearing Oak, or Pond Blue). All officers and EM of a border company had to know the name and exact location of these terrain features. Order 003 was for detachment and battalion CO's and ordered them to make sketches of a scale 1:10,000 of their respective areas, with pertinent entries of all terrain features and of all man-made installations. This mapping was done by officers of the Border Security Department, separately by detachment and by battalion, and usually in only one copy. The order stipulated a scale of 1:10,000. Battalions usually made sketches 1:10,000, but detachments usually used the ready-made map of 1:25,000 and entered all required items on it. The 68th Border Guard Detachment had only 1:25,000 maps of its territory.

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it would be impossible to handle sketches of a scale 1:10,000 of the 550 km. of border length and 1 to 30 km. of depth guarded by the 68th Detachment.

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For the map entries described in paragraph above, the following instruments were used: plotting board, square, protractor, circle, compass, ruler and pencils. Measurements were made by lying down prone to note terrain features, and by means of thumb and eye estimate. the sketches thus produced were accurate.

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**SECRET**  
**- 3 -**

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that a Soviet air force plane would fly at a certain date over [ ] to take aerial photographs of the border area, and that the Border Guards were not to interfere with the flight of the plane.

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The Border Guard Troops never engaged in aerial surveying.

The Border Guards Troops had no mobile map compilation equipment.

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the lessons were how to find one's location on a map, how to draw maps, how to enter terrain features on a map, on use of the compass, azimuth, protractor, ruler, square, on contours, on map symbols, and map scales.

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**SECRET**

**SECRET**  
- 4 -

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At the Saratov OCS there were also five to seven other tactics instructors, senior lieutenant to captain in rank, who taught topography.

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At the Senior MGB Border Guard Officers' School

little emphasis was placed on topographical instruction. It was part of the general military tactics course, and was in the nature of a refresher course.

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The Border Troops had no separate surveying and mapping schools. In all Border Guard OCS and advanced schools surveying and mapping was taught as part of general military tactics.

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The maps were published by the General Staff of the Armed Forces and were submitted to Border Guard detachments, battalions, and companies through the Main Administration of Border Guard Troops. The maps arrived unclassified, but the Border Guard units stamped them "SECRET". The only marginal data on the maps were the number and series, the scale, date of issue, issuing agency, and contour numbers. There was no legend on topographic symbols because these symbols were supposed to be known to troops. Coordinates were read right and up. The only type of coordinates were geographic "north and east" coordinates.

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- 5 -

Border Guard Troops had topographic maps of following scales: 1:25,000, 1:50,000, 1:100,000, 1:200,000, 1:500,000, 1:1,000,000.

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The latest date of maps [redacted] was 1950. Most maps were of postwar date, mainly 1947. However, there were still some pre-World War II maps.

Maps were published by the Topographic Administration or section of the General Staff of the Soviet Army. The name of the town where the maps were published was not shown on the maps.

There were no 1:10,000 series maps in [redacted] unit. The basic maps used were in the 1:100,000 series. These maps were used almost exclusively by Border Guard Troops detachments, battalions, and companies for making sketches and overlays and for orientation. Maps in the 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 series did not exist in sufficient quantities to be utilized, and at times would not give sufficient coverage at battalion level and above. They were used only at company level, for training purposes at detachment level, and for specific detail when requested.

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Maps of 1:200,000 up to 1:1,000,000 series were kept in desk drawers at the 68th Border Guard Det., but were never used. [redacted] these 25X1 series were used only by higher level headquarters.

He thought all Soviet maps were accurate and reliable.

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##### 5. Custody and storage of Soviet maps and triangulation catalogs

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**SECRET**  
- 6 -

[REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] 25X1

In the Border Guard Troops, on district and detachment level, maps were stored in safes of the security department or security section respectively. In a battalion, the chief of staff kept the maps in his safe, while in a company the maps were stored in the CO's safe.

[REDACTED] the mechanisms for the control of map distribution and availability, in daily use; for maneuvers and exercises.

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[REDACTED] There was no set pattern of map distribution for daily use in the Border Guard Troops. Newcomers to the border area were taught the various local reference points until they knew them by heart.

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[REDACTED]

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